

I RESERVE all my congratulations for Wycombe Wanderers for the magnificent feat of holding mighty Middlesbrough for 89 minutes of the replay.

I hope that Jack Charlton is big enough to accept some criticism not because of the overall display of his team but for what I consider a rank injustice in team selection which was, in the final analysis, detrimental to the team's effectiveness.

I refer to the omission of Peter Brine, making him the scapegoat for the away draw.

This was most unfair, because if the sloping ground was a good enough excuse for the poor performance of the ten senior players, it was also good enough for the youngster.

I am certain that if Brine had played in the replay his speed and tenacity down the right flank would have been

# SPORTSBAG

EDITED BY **TONY STONEHOUSE**

as effective as Hickton's was on the left, and the brave Wycombe defence would have been shattered much earlier with a clear and more definite home win.

—K. ALLISON  
24, Blantyre Road,  
Normanby.

BEING a follower of non-League football (in particular Scarborough) it was so disappointing that Boro had to beat Wycombe with a last-minute goal in what was a really fascinating game—even though some Boro supporters may not agree with me.

I'm not a regular visitor to Ayresome Park, but when was the last time 90 minutes of football was played there without either trainer rush-

ing on to the pitch to attend an injured player?

The reputation of non-League football being all "clog," kick and rush was completely mocked on Tuesday night and I must speak for many when I say it's a pity we didn't see extra-time.

Again, well done Wycombe, best of luck Boro and Stafford Rangers for the FA Cup!

— PAUL JENKINSON.  
27, Esher Avenue,  
Normanby.

I have always thought that Boro fans were a devout and really partisan crowd who could see no good in any visiting team.

I can't praise them enough after the way they treat Wycombe Wanderers. From the applause the No 11 got and the fantastic standing ovation the fans and the Kop gave Wycombe at the finish any stranger walking in at that moment would have thought it was an accolade for the victorious

Boro instead of the defeated, but not disgraced, Wycombe.

**MR. D. GRUBB,**  
215, Bishopston Road West,  
Stockton.

I am a season ticket holder and, after the two games against Wycombe, I think it's about time Jack Charlton strengthened the team up front.

Two men would put us in with a good chance of the Cup or League. I suggest Keith Weller and John Toshack.

I read where Boro scouts had been out all season and they had seen nothing better than our present staff. They must be joking.

So, come on Jack, give the team and the supporters a big lift and get the cheque book out.

**NORMAN THOMAS,**  
200, Acklam Road,  
Middlesbrough.

● **W Y C O M B E** won the accolade; Boro meet Sunderland. A sporting gesture from the Boro fans was surely tinged with relief at the late clincher.